

NLIS REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM MOB-BASED MOVEMENT RECORDING

NLIS is Australia's system for the identification and tracing of sheep and goats for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes.

To enhance this system, the requirement to record the movement of mobs of sheep or goats between properties on the NLIS database is being progressively rolled out across all states from 1 July 2010.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

You should know where the sheep or goats under your management have come from and where they are going when they leave your property. This means:

- Approved NLIS (Sheep) ear tags for sheep and goats leaving their property to show where they have come from;
- Accurate transportation documentation, generally a Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration and Waybill (LPA NVD/Waybill), to show where they are going; and
- Recording a mob-based movement on the NLIS database.

There are some state variations and exemptions – contact your state department of primary industries or agriculture for specific requirements.

KNOW YOUR OBLIGATIONS

Complying with NLIS allows you to remain competitive – non-compliance means no sale.

What is the mob-based movement requirement?

When sheep or goats are moved to a property with a different Property Identification Code (PIC), a mob-based movement needs to be recorded on the NLIS database by the person responsible for the livestock at the destination PIC.

A mob can be as few as one animal. Movements need to be recorded within seven days of the movement taking place. In Queensland, this is 48 hours.

What if I buy through the saleyards?

Recording mob-based movements of sheep and goats traded through the saleyards is the responsibility of the saleyard operators; however, you must provide the saleyard with your PIC. All sectors of the industry will record mob-based movements including saleyards, abattoirs and depots.

How do I record mob-based movements on the database?

You need access to the internet and to set up a free NLIS database account or use your existing NLIS account. This is the same account and database used for cattle:
www.nlis.mla.com.au

Through this account you record the:

- PIC the sheep or goats came from
- PIC the sheep or goats were moved to
- Date of the movement
- Number of livestock
- LPA NVD/Waybill number
- PICs from original ear tags for any non-vendor bred sheep and goats (in Western Australia, record the seller's brand on the last tag applied)

Sheep and goats do not have to be individually scanned as is the case with cattle, rather the mob movement is recorded based on the PIC.

What if I don't have a computer?

A paper-based option for recording mob-based movements is available. Producers can access this service by contacting the NLIS Helpdesk on 1800 654 743.

What is an NLIS (Sheep) ear tag?

NLIS (Sheep) ear tags are approved tags imprinted with the NLIS logo and your PIC. In Western Australia, the tag has the brand printed on it, not the PIC. There are two types of NLIS tags: NLIS breeder tags, which are typically colour-coded for year of birth, and pink NLIS post-breeder tags. Both types of tags can be ordered through merchandise suppliers or from an approved NLIS tag manufacturer.

What is a Property Identification Code (PIC)?

A PIC is a unique identifier for your property and is imprinted on NLIS (Sheep) ear tags, except in Western Australia where the registered brand is imprinted on the NLIS (Sheep) ear tag. Your PIC is issued by your state department of primary industries or agriculture.

What if I am transporting livestock into a different state?

You will need to follow the requirements of the state where the livestock begin their journey as well as the destination state (and any states that the livestock pass through during the journey).

IF IN DOUBT, FIND OUT

For more information, contact your local state department of primary industries or agriculture. For contact details visit:

www.mla.com.au/NLISSheepAndGoats